

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2010 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Michelle Bronson (Vice Chair), Robert Hand, Mary Beth Randall, Ron Sheppard, Dorothy Young, Carlos Duarte (*ex officio*)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary

Call to Order

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

Member Randall motioned to approve the August minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Member Hand, and carried.

Member Reports and Comments

Member Randall reported that she was selling California Council of the Blind sweepstakes tickets, and directed individuals interested in purchasing tickets to see her.

Member Sheppard reported that October is Disability Awareness Month and the Fresno Unified School District would be issuing a proclamation at its October 13, 2010 Board Meeting.

Unscheduled Communication

Ms. Dorothy Hoefling spoke to reduced service on FAX bus lines #30 and #28, requested service at least three times per hour, and indicated that at time she was not able to get on the bus because of overcrowding.

Member Duarte responded that effective today, FAX would be offering service on those lines at twenty minute frequencies.

Mr. Martin Lopez, speaking through a translator, complained that routes #22, #28 did not arrive as scheduled.

Presentation: 10 Year Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness

Mr. Gregory Barfield, the City's Homeless Prevention and Policy Manager, reviewed the activities of his program over the last 22 months, the City's collaborative efforts as part of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, and the new nonprofit organization, "Fresno First Steps Home."

Member Young commended Mr. Barfield on the City's collaboration with Fresno County Behavioral Health.

Member Sheppard referred to Fresno Unified School District's Project Access program, [serving youth who are homeless and in the foster system], and asked how the City's program targets children. Mr. Barfield responded that he works closely with the staff of Project Access and other school districts, including Clovis Unified. Mr. Barfield also described some changes to federal law addressing youth aging out of foster care, and the New Hearth Act, which addresses children and families.

Member Duarte asked Mr. Barfield if he had a sense of how many homeless individuals are people with psychiatric disabilities. Mr. Barfield spoke to the difficulty of getting accurate statistics, given the fact that many of the existing statistics rely on individuals self-reporting their diagnosis, often before they have established a relationship of trust with those taking receiving the information. He estimated that between 40% -60% of individuals have at least some form of mental illness.

Vice Chair Bronson asked Mr. Barfield about his strategies for individuals who do not want to be helped. Mr. Barfield stated that he knew the more times he engaged with an individual, the greater the likelihood of forming a relationship. It is those relationships that increase the likelihood of that individual gaining access to housing and services.

Action Item: Selection of Recipients of the 2010 Disability Advisory Commission Award

Vice Chair Bronson introduced the nominees for the organizational award for the Disability Advisory Commission Achievement Award. Member Hand indicated that the organization for which he serves as Executive Director, Resources for Independence, Central Valley, was nominated for an award. He chose to recuse himself from the discussion and left the room.

Member Young spoke in support of Fresno City College, Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) as an organization. Member Young indicated that they have had positive, long standing effects on the community.

Member Sheppard also spoke in support of FCC, noting their distinguished alumni and assistance of Dr. Janice Emerzian in dealings with Fresno Unified School District.

Member Young made a motion to vote on the organizational nominee. Member Sheppard seconded the motion. After some discussion, this motion was tabled.

Member Sheppard made a motion to nominate FCC for the 2010 DAC Achievement Award. Member Young seconded this motion. The motion passed (4-0) with no abstentions.

Vice Chair Bronson then introduced the four individuals nominated for the DAC Award. Vice Chair Bronson recused herself from voting for this item, as one of the nominees was the president of the board of the organization for which she serves as executive director.

Member Young spoke in support of Ms. Carrie Ornelas-Danny. Member Young indicated that Ms. Ornelas-Danny goes above and beyond her job responsibility, makes a difference in the lives of children and families affected by neurological disease, and is worthy of recognition.

Member Hand spoke in support of Rosemary Diaz. Member Hand drew particular attention to Ms. Diaz's work in assisting the City, and indicated

that this was the kind of effort that the DAC Achievement Award was meant to recognize.

Member Sheppard motioned to award the individual DAC Achievement Award to Ms. Rosemary Diaz. Member Randall seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-1 with Vice Chair Bronson abstaining.

Action Item: Proposed changes to COF Municipal Code regarding Accessibility for People with Disabilities

Secretary Kunz introduced the proposed changes to the municipal code. The changes were previously seen by the Commission, but were “revised” based upon additional information regarding the infeasibility of accepting voting signature stamps for City purposes and a new class of mobility device defined in the most recent implementing regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Member Hand moved that the DAC accepted the proposed changes to the COF municipal code as presented. Member Young seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition or abstention.

Action Item: Establishment of future DAC meeting time and location

Vice Chair Bronson introduced this item. She explained that Chair Taylor had a scheduling conflict with evening meetings, and referred to the schedule provided. Secretary Kunz indicated that she had spoken to Member Pitt, who indicated that she also had evening classes and would prefer a daytime meeting. Secretary Kunz stated that Chair Taylor was only available weekday mornings, and Friday all day and into the evening.

Chair Hand stated that if a daytime meeting is established, he may periodically miss DAC meetings because of work commitments. Members Duarte and Randall indicated that a daytime meeting would be useful in gaining more public participation. There was extensive discussion as to the best possible time for the meeting.

Member Sheppard indicated that he could not commit to a daytime meeting, as he is under contract with his employer.

Member Hand made a motion to hold the meeting on the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Member Randall seconded the motion. Vice Chair Bronson opened the issue to for public comment.

Ms. Gina Mozier suggested that the meeting time be held on the third Tuesday of the month from 11 am -12:30 pm.

Member Young made a motion that the DAC meetings be held from 11 am -12:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. This motion was seconded by Member Randall. The motion passed, with Member Sheppard abstaining.

Member Randall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Young seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.